

Fall/Winter OUTDOOR HUNTING GUIDE



MDC grant helps purchase track-chairs for Missouri disabled sportsmen

JEFFERSON CITY – Specialized track-chairs help the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) make nature and the outdoors more accessible to all outdoor enthusiasts. MDC recently awarded a grant to Missouri Disabled Sportsmen (MDS) to assist in the purchase of four track-chairs and an enclosed trailer. These all-terrain track-chairs will allow MDS to expand their services and create more opportunities for those they serve.

MDS is a non-profit organization with the mission of providing mobility-impaired, youth, and terminally ill youth outdoor enthusiasts with hunting, fishing, shooting sports, and outdoor educational opportunities in a safe and inclusive manner.

“Partnerships between MDC and organizations like MDS are integral to the Department’s outreach efforts,” said Education Outreach Coordinator Rob Garver. “We’ve partnered with MDS for several years and we’re confident this grant and the new track-chairs will strengthen this relationship for years to come.”

Track-chairs are off-road, electronic chairs that are designed for all terrain mobility. The chairs make the outdoors accessible for those with mobility issues. MDC currently has 14 track-chairs in its Missouri Accessible Outdoors Track-Chair Program. The all-terrain track-chairs are utilized for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor education events sponsored by MDC or partnering organizations. Four are located in Springfield, four in Kirksville, two in Cape Girardeau, and four in Kansas City.

MDS works with volunteer mentors, agencies, private landowners, and like-minded organizations to create opportunities for participants to pursue deer, upland birds, turkey, waterfowl, and fish, as well as participate in outdoor educational events throughout Missouri. With the addition of their own track chairs, MDS has the ability to expand their program offerings.

MDC reports hunters took eight black bears this season

BY JOE JEREK
Missouri Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that Missouri hunters harvested eight black bears during the 2022 bear-hunting season, Oct. 17–26.

More than 5,880 hunters applied during May for 400 permits for the season with the maximum total harvest being 40 bears. Of the 400 hunters selected through a random drawing of all applicants, 350 hunters purchased permits for the season.

Bear hunting in Missouri is limited to Missouri residents and restricted to three designated areas of

southern Missouri called Bear Management Zones (BMZ). Each permit issued is for a specific BMZ and hunting is limited to public or private property within the BMZ.

All eight bears were harvested in BMZ 1 out of a maximum of 20 with 177 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone. No bears were harvested in BMZ 2 out of a maximum of 15 with 128 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone. No bears were harvested in BMZ 3 out of a maximum of 5 with 45 hunters purchasing permits to hunt the zone.

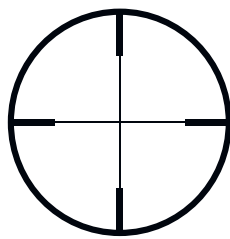
This year, three of the eight bears harvested were taken with bows. During last year’s inaugural season, all 12 black bears harvested were taken with firearms.

MDC notes that an even ratio of male and female bears were harvested this year, similar to last.

“We anticipated a lower harvest this season over last,” said MDC Bear Biologist Nate Bowersock. “Bears love gorging on acorns in the fall and the acorn crop around the state was much more plentiful this season over last. This resulted in bears moving less often and being more dispersed, which made it more difficult for hunters to find them.”

Learn more about Missouri black bears and bear hunting in Missouri at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/bear

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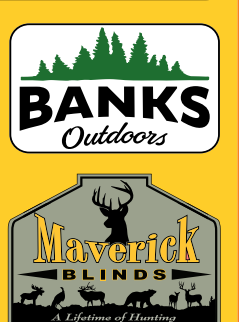
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Annual Youth Big Buck Contest a success

Kaiden Butler (right, photo right) holds his winning buck with the help of his best friend Kwinten Green. Butler's buck scored 169 at the 3rd Annual Belle Big Buck Contest over the weekend. The contest drew 117 participants with 42 deer checked. Butler was awarded a Weatherby Rifle donated by Jeremy Helmig with Helmig Logging and a shoulder mount donated by Ward Sooter with Back To Life Taxidermy. All participants in the contest received a prize. Butler is the son of Michael and Stephanie Butler of Belle. Green (photo above left) is shown with the 8 pt. buck he harvested. He is the son of Mike and Heather Green of Belle. Trinity Mayes (photo middle right) harvested this 8 pt. buck. She is the daughter of Chuck and Casey Mayes of Belle. Amanda Moore (photo lower left) and her twin sister Ariel (photo lower right) both killed their first deer during the youth portion of the 2022 firearms deer season last weekend. They are the daughters of Alex and Nicole Moore of Belle. The contest was organized by Mike Green.



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NO CHARGE: Email photos of youth deer hunters to dwarden@wardpub.com. Include child's name, age, address, parent's names and address, doe or buck, number of points, if this is first deer killed, date killed, location killed, and phone number (for reference, not to be included in story).

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OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

A three course supper

A man who lives in the country ought to have a good squirrel dog and I don't have one. The old-timers I knew back home in the hills would not understand that! Problems, problems, problems! Maybe squirrel dog prices will come down after next week's election.

The nearest grocery store is many miles away and I can't afford the gas to get there. Can't afford baloney and biscuits neither if you factor in the cost of gas to get to the store. So I decided I would go get tonight's supper through outdoor adventure.

One of my neighbors has a rather large, secluded lake where he has stocked crappie. My own pond has no crappie, just bass, catfish and crappie. No body wants to eat fish from their own pond anyhow. You need to save them for hard times.

So I drove my old pickup down through the neighbor's gate with my .22 rifle and fishing rod one afternoon and in a little while I caught several, ten-to-eleven-inch crappie and then went squirrel hunt-



by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

ing down in the woods behind the lake. It was beautiful, still and perfect. This time of year you can forget looking for squirrels in the trees. Just walk slowly along and they will go running toward you, past you or away from you and jump up in a tree and look at you if you, imitate one with a bark or scold. Four gray squirrels did that. Two just went, and gave me no shot, but two did give me an opportunity to have squirrel for supper. I missed one twice and he went in a hole. Even a good squirrel dog doesn't help when there is a hole in the tree. But when I missed that one squirrel twice, another went to barking at me and I got him in only 3 shots.

Well, five .22 shells are cheaper than baloney and biscuits. My rifle is a dandy, light and accurate and a perfect squirrel gun. On the barrel is printed, "made in the 200th year of American liberty" I've

been trying to figure out how old it is. The sights must be off on my rifle. I should only have to shoot 2 shells for 2 squirrels. I am a little ashamed of that shooting. I fancy myself as a good shot. I once shot flying wasps with that little .22!!! Well I never got some of them, but I never did as poorly as I did that evening! But just because someone fancies themselves as a good shot don't mean they are. I shouldn't use that word 'fancies' any more. It don't fit a grizzled old veteran outdoorsman like me. But you can bet that this evening I will improve my squirrel to bullet ratio. I've got to get a couple of squirrels for some elderly neighbors down the road.

Anyway, I scaled the crappie for supper that evening, removed head, fins and entrails and fried them whole in a skillet full of lard, after I fried the squirrel of course. Had turnip greens with it, making it what you call a three-course meal.

The woods are full of young squirrels. The one I got was a mature male that was harder to skin than an old banker. He wasn't too smart, sitting there in plain sight barking at me. He may be so old he was trying to commit "suicide by hunter". The tree I shot him out of is a big tri-trunk red oak I built a tree stand in back in '93. Up high in the fork of it, I carved my initials and a date of 11-20-93. Sometime I am

going to climb up there and see if it still shows. The only thing left of the stand is one old bent board with nails sticking out of one end. It is a place where I spent many hours in the nineties dreaming and wishing and writing. I can still see myself sitting there waiting for a deer, but it is only a fading picture. I had no idea then that someday 1993 would be so many years behind me.

All old time squirrel hunters of another time named their muzzle-loader rifles. Mine is named 'Ol' Roger the Ruger. You can see a photo of it on my blogspot...

larrydablemontoutdoors. It is pictured there with that 11- or 12-year old gray squirrel I gnawed on until I just gave up and ate the crappie, which were delicious.

I am going back into the woods every day 'til the snow flies if things work out like I want. May float a river or two and cuss the low water in some of them. As for now, I am going back to the woods. These days should not be wasted away indoors.

Email me at lightningridge47@gmail.com. I have a few of my fall magazines left, and you can get one by calling me at 417-777-5227.



LARRY DABLEMONT'S gun, named 'Ol' Roger the Ruger is pictured with the old gray squirrel he shot.

Young hunters harvest 13,759 deer during early youth portion of firearms deer season

BY **Jill Pritchard**
Missouri Department of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that young hunters ages 6 through 15 harvested 13,759 deer during Missouri's early youth portion of the 2022 deer hunting season, Oct. 29-30. Top counties were Franklin with 330 deer harvested, Osage with 310, and Howell with 260. Youth hunters harvested 15,608 during last year's early youth portion.

View additional harvest numbers for the 2022 early youth portion at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Z3g>.

"Saturday's conditions were fairly comfortable for our young deer hunters," said MDC's Cervid Program Supervisor Jason Isabelle. "Although the rain we received in portions of the state on Sunday was much needed given the ongoing drought, it did put a bit of a damper on the latter half of the early youth portion."

Missouri's archery deer and turkey season continues through Nov. 11 and resumes Nov. 23 through Jan. 15, 2023. The November portion of firearms deer season runs Nov. 12-22 followed by the late youth portion Nov. 25-27. The antlerless portion of firearms deer season runs Dec. 3-11 (in open counties) followed by the alternative methods portion Dec. 24 through Jan. 3, 2023.

Read more information on deer hunting from MDC's 2022 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available where hunting permits are sold and online at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4Tz>.

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